

# PARKSIDE MONTESSORI ASSURANCE NEWS



## BACKGROUND

Each year, parents of students in grades 4, 5, and 6 receive a survey from Alberta Education in the mail. These surveys are to be completed online using the random-access code provided directly to parents and are anonymous.

The information we receive from the Alberta Education Assurance survey is extremely important for accountability in the delivery of education and builds assurance that schools are moving in the right direction. This information assists our school specifically in planning our priorities, strategies, and selecting evidence for our three-year education plan.

The survey asks for feedback from students, parents, and teachers on various aspects of quality instruction; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and includes provincial assessments of student learning.

Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 from Parkside and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school this spring.

Every few weeks for the remainder of the year we will update you on a different section from the survey and our efforts as a school community to support maintaining and increasing our achievement. It is our hope that providing this information will assist our parents in feeling confident in responding to the survey in the spring.



## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 96% of teachers, parents and students agree that students are engaged in their learning
- 97% of teachers, parents and students are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship
- 99% of teachers, parents, and students are satisfied with the overall quality of basic education
- 98% of teachers, parents and students agree that their learning environments are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe
- 93% of teachers, and parents are satisfied with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education.



# DECEMBER ASSURANCE HIGHLIGHT

*There are 9 specific areas looked at within the Provincial Assurance Survey. We will highlight one area in each edition. For December, the focus is sharing how our school community supports student engagement.*



## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

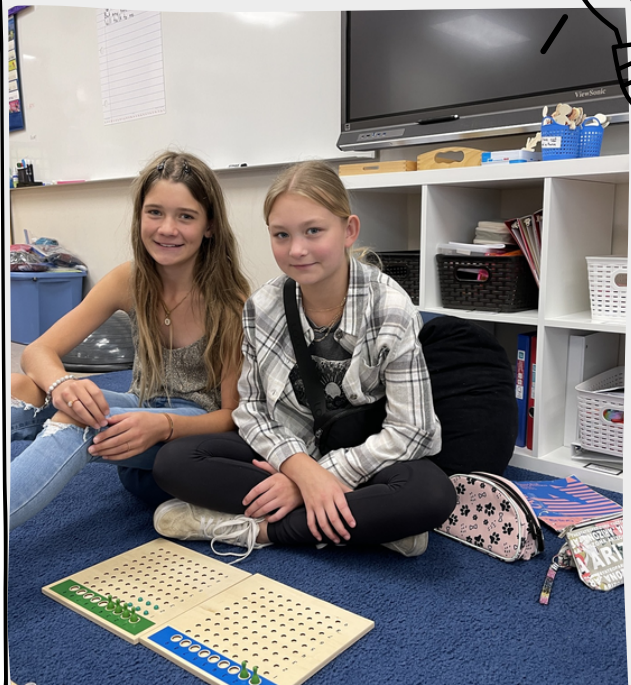
### In Learning

- Use of specialized Montessori materials
- Individual learning plan for each student based on their own achievement
- Project based learning with emphasis on real-life application. Examples include the Grade 4-6 Coffee Shop and the Parkside Montessori School Bank.
- Daily physical education for all students and opportunity to explore different physical activities (frisbee golf, basketball, snow shoeing, skating, yoga, dance, etc.)
- French as a Second Language for students in grades 4, 5, 6
- Various virtual and in-person guest speakers and field trips on curricular topics and topics of interest
- Practical Life opportunities within classrooms (beading, bird feeder making, cooking, etc.)
- Integration of Indigenous perspectives

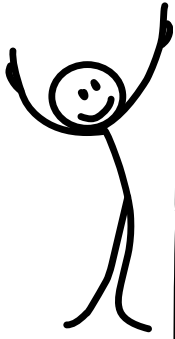


### In School Culture And Extra Curricular

- Athletic opportunities (Division Fun Run, Triple Ball Tournament, Tri-Division Ball Hockey and Soccer, etc.)
- Participation in whole school events that promote various aspects of learning (Literacy Week, Random Acts of Kindness, Community Kindness, etc.)
- Multi-Activity Learning Time (MALT) scheduled throughout the year, allowing students to explore different types of learning in areas of curiosity and high interest (art, science, technology, cooking, sewing, creating, drama, music and more!)
- Numerous student-led clubs (mini-sticks, drama club, dance/gymnastics club, Box-bots, etc.)
- Student leadership opportunities
- Student led extra-curricular events
- Collaborative school meals prepared by students







# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

## In School Planning

- School-based Student Advisory team consisting of a representative from each classroom meets bi-weekly with Principal and teacher representative to identify successes and challenges, prioritize needs, and develop plans to actualize ideas generated from the students of Parkside.
- School administration consults with students in a variety of ways to select school theme days and events throughout the year
  - Students are provided opportunity to work within a budget to choose school purchases. An example includes each class being provided with a budget for books for the Library that they chose and ordered.



## In Literacy and Numeracy

- Hands-on Montessori materials that allow for movement from concrete learning to abstract learning
- Participation in targeted Literacy and Numeracy Intervention
- Student choice in topic exploration and self-directed passion projects
- Small group instruction
- Early readers receive instruction with the goal of increasing their phonemic awareness through engaging lessons, stories, and activities
- Connections are made in literacy and numeracy activities to real-world applications
- Opportunities to share and celebrate learning accomplishments with peers and the school through announcements

